29 April 1958

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S/COM Comments on the ▮▮▮▮▮ Paper

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    The problem posed by ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ is indeed a real one. Our communication today, internal and external, is far too manual and far too physical to be either fast or economical. To meet the needs of today's "time", communication needs to be far more automatic and far more electrical. If one were to use the New York Times foreign reporting service as an ideal, one would be forced to admit that we have a very, very long way to go, even though that ideal is probably not wholly achievable in the intelligence field.

As we see it, the major parts of the problem are:

1. Evaluating the collected material at the point of collection. This should, among other things, determine the kind of onward handling from that point.

2. Transmission processing of the collected material at the point of collection once and only once in final form for Washington users. For purpose of illustration, let's say by flexo-writer, one item to a 5x8 card* stencil and a tape for tele-type transmission.

3. Transmitting the prepared stencil card by physical transport, or the card tape by teletype to Washington using on-line, one-time encipherment tape.

4. Reception processing of the 5x8 stenciled card as received physically or by teletype in which the card is appropriately numbered, caveated, reclassified, etc., after which the appropriate number of copies are run off on high-speed reproduction machines.

5. Distributing sufficient copies of the card so as to eliminate the lost time involved in distributing multiple-routed copies.

    Obviously the above breakdown of the problem is greatly over-simplified. The key to the time -- and perhaps cost -- problem seems to be the mechanization of the origin and terminal processing operations. In order not to lose the benefits of this savings in time -- and expense --

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* There are numerous obvious advantages to a standardized one-item card.

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The system needs to be supported by a modern telegraph (and facsimile) network as proposed by ███████████ The speed and capacity of the circuits of such a network should of course be a function of the kind and density of traffic.

An undertaking of this sort requires organization:

1. To analyze the problems
2. To engineer systems and methods solutions
3. To implement these systems and methods
4. To manage the system on a continuing basis:
   a. For centralized control
   b. For measurement of performance
   c. For taking corrective actions and for effecting improvements 25X1A9a

We agree heartily with █████████ that the ultimate objective should be a centralized Washington system to serve the whole intelligence community. We also agree that CIA should show its leadership and "Central" functions by example through the extablishment of a model to serve CIA, which can be extended in due course.